# Summer 4th Year Exam 2011: Examiner’s Report

**1a.**

**Most scored either 3-4 and were able to give some sort of inferential point, though the structure of many answers was not particularly clear.**

**Common errors:**

* Not seeing the significance of the source in terms of ‘Hitler’s power’.
* Failing to give precise selected quotation/ reference to the source.
* Candidates not using the template: ‘This source suggests that...because it says...’

**Suggested answer: 2-3 paragraphed inferences**

***First*** *the source suggests that the Nazis were powerful since they had two important organisations- the SA and SS. It says that the SA ‘numbered 2 million’ and that the SS was used to ‘shoot leading members of the SA’.*

***Second****, it also suggests that Hitler had great power because he was able to kill opposition without the need for a trial and presumably without a public outcry. It says ‘up to 200 people’ were removed.*

***Finally*** *it suggests that Hitler and the Nazis became more popular with the people given that the SA had a ‘bad reputation’ for violence, so removing them might make the Nazis more legitimate in the eyes of the people.*

**1b.**

**Quite a few scored 6, though the majority only really managed 1 developed statement. Most identified the rentenmark, Dawes and Young Plan, but some embarked on irrelevant discussion of his foreign policy. Some discussed pre-1923 and blamed hyperinflation on him!**

**Common errors:**

* Tendency to dive into specific examples rather than seeing an ‘overview’ of Stresemann’s policies.
* Not effectively paragraphing and given precise selected factual detail
* Not using the question in the answer to give it focus.

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**Suggested answer: 2 developed statements enough, properly paragraphed.**

*Stresemann’s* ***first*** *policy was to stop inflation. He did this by introducing a new currency- the rentenmark in 1924. He withdrew the old worthless mark, created a new central bank- the Reichbank, and ensured that tight control of the money supply kept inflation low. This gave the economy stability.*

*Stresemann’s* ***second*** *policy was to boost the economy with new finance from America. Through the Dawes Plan he negotiated a $800 million loan which was invested in new business. This reduced unemployment and boosted trade with the world, thus allowing Germany to repay its reparations and loans. Through the 1929 Young Plan he also negotiated an extension to the repayments by 59 years and a 67% reduction in the overall total. As a result prosperity returned to Germany in the mid 1920s- known as the ‘Golden Years.’*

**1c.**

**Most answers identified what the Enabling Act allowed Hitler to do but were weaker on its precise effects. There was some confusion between the Enabling Act and the emergency law which immediately follows the Reichstag Fire [Law for the Protection of People and State]. Many gained only 4/8 because they failed to fully explain the effects.**

**Common errors:**

* Not effectively paragraphing the effects and referring back to the question
* Failing to link the effects together

**Suggested answer:**

*The* ***first*** *effect of the Enabling law was to give Hitler the power to rule by decree for 4 years [extended after 4 years] without the need to consult the Reichstag. This effectively ended the Weimar Republic and meant Hitler could impose any law on Germany.*

***Secondly*** *Hitler was able to use the Enabling law to remove all forms of opposition. The following were banned- all other political parties, trade unions, regional government. Even the army was instructed to swear an oath of personal loyalty in 1934. In November 1934 Hitler was able to use the law to combine the post of Chancellor and President to create the title ‘fuhrer’.*

***In summary*** *the Enabling Law gave Hitler the power of dictatorship and put in place a police state from which he was able to persecute his opponents and ethnic minorities such as the Jews. This all stemmed from political power over the Reichstag which continued to sit - with only Nazis as members- to hear Hitler’s decisions.*

**1d.**

**This was a hard question. Many scored only 4-5 because, while they developed causes for ’difficulty to govern’, they failed to link this back to the question specifically. For example few were able to fully explain why the Spartacists were a challenge to government. Some answers neglected to mention World War One or the Treaty of Versailles at all and just focused on PR without specific examples.**

**Common errors:**

* Failing to identify specific causes for political instability- general vagueness
* Not paragraphing accordingly
* Not specifically answering the question
* Writing about events outside of the timeframe of 1919-22- e.g. Hyperinflation [1923] Great Depression [1929-33]
* Failing to link or prioritise causes

**Suggested Answer: see sheet ‘How to revise’**

**2a.**

**This answer was usually quite well answered with many scoring 6-8 marks. Most saw the laws as leading to a ban on inter-race sexual relations/marriage and linked this to daily lives. Others went as far as Kristallnacht [1938] which gained credit. Few gave the linking factor that the Laws removed citizenship- hence allowed the Nazis to carry out all their anti-Semitic policies.**

**Common errors:**

* Failing to paragraph
* Failing to list specific changes
* Failing to link

**Suggested answer: again use the question in the answer to give it focus.**

The Nuremberg laws removed citizenship from the Jews. No longer were they protected by German laws. This meant large change for their lives.

The **first change** which resulted from this was the loss of the vote. This was of little practical significance in that there were no more elections anyway, but it was an important symbol that the Jews were no longer protected by the constitution.

The **second** **change** was the law forbidding sexual relations and marriage between Jews and non-Jews. This obviously had a deep social impact on daily lives of those who had formed relationships and was a clear restriction on basic human rights.

The **third change** was the increased persecution of the Jews after 1935. Jews were expelled from the professions, had their businesses confiscated and could be arrested and imprisoned without trial. The worst abuse took place in 1938 when on kristallnacht Jewish business and synagogues were attacked and many leading Jews were sent to concentration camps.

In **summary** the loss of citizenship relegated the Jews to a lower status in society. They were no longer protected by the law and persecution increased up to 1939. Jews felt degraded and humiliated, especially after fighting for Germany in World War Two. Many chose to leave Germany for other parts of Europe or even Palestine.

**2b.**

**This answer was generally less well answered, principally because few understood the chronology or talked excessively generally about ‘weakening opposition’. It was clear many candidates lacked any specific knowledge. Many wasted time discussing Van der Lubbe and his matches or whether the Nazis started it. Many failed to get above 4-5.**

**Common errors:**

* Weak knowledge and misunderstood events
* Failure to paragraph and list points
* Failure to specifically answer the question and link back to the question.
* Failure to link points together.

**Suggested answer:**

The **first** way in which the Fire was used to weaken opposition was to blame the Fire on the communists. As a direct attack on the Reichstag it was portrayed by the Nazis that the communists were a danger to democracy. This led to an increase in support for the Nazis particularly amongst middle class voters. In the March 1933 elections the Nazi vote increased to 43% of the vote- their highest ever polling.

**Second** Hitler used the Fire to demand from Hindenburg an emergency law which suspended civil liberties. This allowed the Nazis to imprison without trial. Communists and leading socialists were arrested and so could not sit in the Reichstag. Indeed the communist party was prevented from printing material or campaigning in the March election. Their vote fell as a result.

**Third** and finally the Fire, by weakening the communists and socialists, paved the way for the passage of the Enabling Act in March 1934 which in turn allowed Hitler to abolish all parties. His power was now total.

In **summary** we can see that the Fire led to **sequence of inter-related events** which led to Hitler’s full dictatorship as fuhrer by the end of 1934. Hindenburg, part scared of communism and ageing rapidly, was powerless to resist.

**3a.**

* This was quite a hard question- partly because the lack of cut off date after 1922 meant few really discussed the period 1929-33 in any detail.
* Lots of answers described the factors but didn’t really link them to the question i.e. ‘hard to govern’. Hence most answers were narrative or implicit- max 8. Quite a few answers were excessively vague.
* Many confused hyperinflation [1923] with the Great Depression [1929] or saw them as linked. Surely hyperinflation was solved in the mid 1920s by the rentenmark and the Great depression was caused by the US Stock Market Crash? Other saw the hyperinflation crisis leading to the French invasion which is the wrong way round. Some concluded the hyperinflation crisis led to a ‘massive increase’ in the Nazi vote???? Throughout the 1920s until 1929 they remained a small regional and pretty insignificant party.
* Few really discussed the period 1929-1933 when arguably Weimar was most under threat and hard to govern due to a. The depression and b. The Nazis. In this period the Reichstag was very divided and Hindenburg had to use Article 48 to support his weak ‘Von’ chancellors- Brunning/Papen/Schleicher and ultimately had to turn to Hitler.

**3b.**

* This was generally an easier answer and consequently most candidates did better and many got into level 3. This shows the importance of correct question choice.
* Most were able to focus on the question- popularity. Some even discussed other factors not mentioned e.g. anti-Semitic policies, foreign policies.
* A common weakness was not always linking the points back to popularity and again vagueness and lack of specific examples was disappointing.

**Common errors for 3a. And 3b.:**

* Not answering the question asked.
* Not covering all the factors
* Failing to effectively prioritise the factors- particularly the rise of the Nazis and the Depression.